IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel claims 1, 6, 10, 14, 19, 22, and 28** without prejudice or disclaimer; **amend claims 2-5, 7-9, 11, 13, 15, and 16,** as indicated below; and **add claims 34-38** as follows:

1. (*Cancelled*)

2. (*Currently amended*) A print device according to claim [[1]] **34**, wherein the data control module is further configured to:

compare the job timing information with a further set of timing information stored on the local memory, the further set of timing information relating to print jobs currently stored on the local memory, and [[to]]

retrieve a copy of the print data only if the print job can be processed no later than[[,]] the time specified in the job timing information.

3. (*Currently amended*) A print device according to claim **2**, wherein the data control module is further configured to:

monitor file size information included as part of print data on a computer system, the file size information relating to the storage capacity required to store the print data; and

[[to]] compare the file size information with the available storage space of the local memory, the print data being retrieved

only if the print data can be stored on the available storage space of the local memory.

4. (*Currently amended*) A print device according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the data control module is configured to retrieve print data from a computer system asynchronously.

5. (*Currently amended*) A print device according to claim [[1]] 34, wherein the print device further comprises a raster image processor (RIP) for processing retrieved print data prior to [[it]] its being stored in the local memory, and a first print process includes raster image processing.

6. (*Cancelled*)

7. (*Currently amended*) A print device according to claim [[6]] 34, wherein the data control module is further configured to output an acknowledgement signal in response to print data being outputted to the [[PE]] print engine, the acknowledgement signal being made available for sending to the computer system from which the print data was retrieved.

8. (*Currently amended*) A print device according to claim [[1]] 34, wherein the local memory is a cache memory module.

9. (*Currently amended*) A computer network comprising:

at least one computer system capable of generating print data; and

a plurality of print devices in accordance with claim **[[1]]** **34**, each print device being capable of retrieving print data from the at least one computer system via a network connection.

10. (*Cancelled*)

11. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim **[[10]]** **35**, ~~the method~~ further comprising:

comparing the job timing information with a further set of timing information stored on a local memory of the print device, the further set of timing information relating to print jobs currently stored on the local memory; and

retrieving the print data from the computer system via the data link only if the print job can be processed no later than**[[,]]** the time specified in the job timing information.

12. (*Previously presented*) A method according to claim **11**, wherein the print data further includes file size information relating to the storage capacity required to store the print data, and wherein the step of retrieving the print data from the computer system further ~~comprising~~ includes comparing the file size information with the available storage space of the local memory

module, the print data being retrieved only if the comparing step indicates the print data can be stored on the available storage space of the local memory module.

13. (*Original*) A method according to claim [[10]] **35**, wherein the print data is retrieved from the computer system asynchronously.

14. (*Cancelled*)

15. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim [[14]] **35**, ~~the method~~ further comprising generating a printed ~~output from~~ document by operating the print engine on the processed print data ~~stored on the local memory module~~ if the print job has not been performed by another print device.

16. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim [[10]] **35**, further comprising gencrating an acknowledgement signal by the data control module in response to printed output being generated from the processed print data, and thereafter sending the acknowledgement signal to the computer system from which the print data was retrieved.

17. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim **16**, further comprising deleting a copy of the print data stored in the

computer system~~, further comprising,~~ by using the acknowledgement signal.

18. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim **16**, further comprising indicating that the print data stored on the computer system has been printed by tagging the print data stored on the computer system **[[and]]** using the acknowledgment signal and, ~~indicating~~ thereafter, indicating to further print devices that the print data has already been printed in response to the computer system responding to the tagging of the print data stored on the computer system.

19. (*Cancelled*)

20. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim **[[10]]** **35** wherein the monitoring is performed by a data control module of a print device.

21. (*Currently amended*) The computer program of claim **[[19]]** **36** wherein the monitoring is performed by a data control module of a print device.

22. (*Cancelled*)

23. (*Currently amended*) A printer according to claim **[[22]]** **37**, wherein the controller is additionally arranged to determine,

prior to retrieving the print job, whether the print job has a characteristic requirement which cannot be met.

24. (*Previously presented*) A printer according to claim **23**, wherein the characteristic requirement is a particular finishing operation.

25. (*Currently amended*) A printer according to claim **[[22]]** **37**, wherein the controller is additionally adapted to determine, prior to retrieval, whether, having regard to pending print jobs stored in the memory, it is possible to complete the print job prior to the preferred time for completion.

26. (*Currently amended*) A printer according to claim **[[22]]** **37** wherein the controller is additionally arranged to determine, prior to retrieval, whether there is sufficient available space in the memory to store the print job.

27. (*Previously presented*) A printer according to claim **[[26]]** **37** wherein the controller is additionally arranged to generate an output signal in response to the print job being sent to the print engine, and to send the output signal to the computer system.

28. (*Previously presented*) A method of acquiring, via a network connection, a print job stored on a computer system and

having a preferred time for completion, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring traffic load on the network connection;

determining, in response to the monitored traffic, whether the traffic load permits transfer of the print job, via the network connection, to a memory;

if so, and a preferred time for completion has not passed, retrieving the print job and copying it to the memory.

29. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim [[28]] **38** further comprising the step of determining, prior to retrieving the print job, whether the print job has a characteristic requirement which cannot be met.

30. (*Previously presented*) A method according to claim **29**, wherein the characteristic requirement is a particular finishing operation.

31. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim [[28]] **38**, further comprising the step of determining, prior to retrieval, whether, having regard to pending print jobs stored in the memory, it is possible to complete the print job prior by the preferred time for completion.

32. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim [[28]] **38** further comprising the step of determining, prior to retrieval, whether there is sufficient available space in the memory to store the print job.

33. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim [[28]] **38** further comprising the steps of generating an output signal in response to the print job being sent to a print engine, and sending the output signal to the computer system.

34. (*New*) A print device comprising:

a print engine;

a memory; and

a data control module configured to monitor, via a data link, print data relating to a print job stored on a computer system, the print data including job timing information relating to the preferred time at which the print job is to be processed, the data control module also being configured to:

monitor traffic load on the data link;

retrieve, prior to the time specified in the job timing information, a copy of the print data as soon as the data link becomes available to transfer the print data as indicated by the monitored traffic load on the data link;

store the print data on the local memory;

perform a print processing operation; and

establish, subsequent to the performance of the print processing operation and prior to operating the print engine on data generated therefrom, that the print job has not been performed by another print device.

35. (*New*) A method of acquiring and processing print data from a computer system, the method comprising:

monitoring print data relating to a print job stored on a computer system, the print data including job timing information relating to the preferred time at which the print job is to be processed;

monitoring traffic load on a data link to the computer system;

retrieving, prior to the time specified in the job timing information, a copy of the print data as soon as the data link becomes available to transfer the print data;

storing the print data on a local memory of the print device; and

establishing, subsequent to the performance of the print processing operation and prior to operating the print engine on data generated therefrom, that the print job has not been performed by another print device.

36. (*New*) A computer-usable medium or storage device for storing a computer program having computer-readable instructions for causing a computer system to acquire print data from a computer system, the program causing the computer system to perform the steps of:

monitoring print data relating to a print job stored on a computer system, the print data including job timing information relating to the preferred time at which the print job is to be processed;

monitoring traffic load on a data link to the computer system;

retrieving, prior to the time specified in the job timing information, a copy of the print data as soon as the data link becomes available to transfer the print data;

storing the print data on a local memory of the print device; and

establishing, subsequent to the performance of the print processing operation and prior to operating the print engine on data generated therefrom, that the print job has not been performed by another print device.

37. (*New*) A printer having a print engine, a memory and a controller arranged to:

monitor, via a network connection, a print job which has a preferred time for completion and is held on a computer system;

monitor traffic on the network connection;

establish whether traffic load on the network connection permits transfer of the print job to the memory via the network connection, and, if so and the preferred time for completion has not passed, to retrieve the print job and copy it to the memory;

rip data by performing a ripping operation on the data; and

establish if the print job has not been performed by another print device; and

if not, operate the print engine by using the ripped data to print a document.

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT CLAIM 38 IS SUPPOSED TO BE